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Viewing cable 06MEXICO3953, AT MASS RALLY, LOPEZ OBRADOR CALLS FOR CIVIL

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MEXICO3953**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06MEXICO3953	2006-07-18 00:21	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Mexico

Appears in these articles:

<http://wikileaks.jornada.com.mx/notas/eu-siguio-con-lupa-la-movilizacion-poselectoral>

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHME #3953/01 1990021
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 180021Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2191
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1210
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

71639
2006-07-18 00:21:00
06MEXICO3953
Embassy Mexico
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2191
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1210
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [MX](#)
C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 003953

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [MX](#)
SUBJECT: AT MASS RALLY, LOPEZ OBRADOR CALLS FOR CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE
REF: MEXICO 3832

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL CHIEF ALAN MELTZER, REASONS: 1.4(B/D).

¶1. (SBU) Summary: On Sunday, July 16, Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) presided over a mass march and "informational meeting" at which he demanded a complete, nationwide recount of the results of the Mexican presidential election. Estimates of the attendance at the event ranged from 300,000 to 1.5 million. During the rally, AMLO called for a campaign of peaceful civic disobedience -- the details of which will be decided later today -- to demonstrate the insistence of his supporters on a complete vote recount. He also called on his supporters to conduct vigils outside the 300 district offices of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), allegedly to prevent tampering with the ballot boxes being stored there. AMLO urged his supporters to attend in even greater numbers another march and rally scheduled for Sunday, July 30. A PRD contact confirmed that AMLO had no intention of standing down unless the electoral tribunal (TEPJF) conducts the nationwide recount he demands. End summary.

A Million Man March?

¶2. (U) On Sunday, July 16, AMLO led a mass march of supporters down Paseo la Reforma, Mexico City's leading thoroughfare, terminating in a vast rally in the city's Zocalo, or central square. The PRD-led Mexico City Department of Public Security estimated the crowd at 1.1 million, although other estimates of the crowd ranged from 300,000 (MSNBC) to 700,000 (Notimex) to 1.5 million (the President of the PRD). Although the actual turnout is likely to remain in dispute, by all accounts the turnout was considerably heavier than at last week's event (ref A), which was estimated at between 150,000-280,000. According to press reports, what may have been the largest crowd in Mexico City history maintained a festive air, and no incidents of violence were reported. A PRD contact characterized the event as a great success, noting that the demonstration was legal and peaceful, and carried out so as to cause as little inconvenience as possible in the city.

AMLO Calls His Supporters to Action

¶3. (U) In his half-hour long remarks, AMLO called on his supporters to "defend the inalienable right of the people to freely elect their leaders." Reeling off a litany of alleged campaign violations and irregularities, AMLO demanded that the TEPJF order a nationwide recount, "vote by vote, ballot box by ballot box." He called on rival Felipe Calderon "to act in a responsible manner and to accept, without any pretexts" a nationwide recount. He added: "I recommend to you that for your own sake, for the sake of your relatives, for the sake of your closest supporters, I recommend that you realize that...the consummation of a fraudulent election cannot be erased...." He warned that a complete recount was

essential for the political economic and financial stability of the country.

14. (U) In support of this demand, AMLO unveiled a three-pronged strategy. First, he called on his supporters to undertake continuous vigils outside IFE's 300 district offices, allegedly to prevent tampering with the ballot boxes being stored there. He added that these vigils would serve as centers of information and decision-making for his cause. Second, he called on his supporters to begin a strategy of peaceful civil disobedience, starting this week. He said he would form a citizens' committee to decide on the nature of such acts of civil disobedience. Finally, he called upon his supporters to return to Mexico City on Sunday, July 30, for a third mass march and "informational meeting;" he challenged his supporters to work to bring twice as many participants to the next rally.

15. (U) According to a PRD contact, AMLO is meeting July 17 with those civil society members who will form the so-called citizens' committee that will decide on a strategy of peaceful civil disobedience, to be announced in a press conference. Our contact said AMLO would not be satisfied if the TEPJF decided only to recount the votes in the approximately 50,000 precincts which he specifically contested. She said that he planned to continue the protests until the TEPJF undertook a complete, nationwide recount, adding that if the TEPJF failed to order such a recount, the

country risked becoming ungovernable.

Comment: AMLO Has Momentum...For Now

16. (C) If any observers were beginning to wonder whether AMLO's election protest was losing steam, Sunday's huge turnout should put those doubts to rest, at least until his next rally. At this point, the real question is what AMLO's next move will be once the TEPJF finally rules, as it seems clear he will not be happy with any result that leaves Calderon the victor. There is no question that AMLO enjoys the loyalty of a hard core of true believers who will not desert him readily, although such true believers probably represent but a fraction of those present at Sunday's rally; they are probably too few in numbers and in resources to sustain AMLO's protest on their own. AMLO currently also enjoys the public support -- whether or not enthusiastic -- of the PRD's hierarchy and officeholders. Nevertheless, as the second force in Congress -- and as the party to have grown most in the recent elections -- the PRD has a considerable incentive to work within the system. Maintaining the support of the PRD hierarchy -- and the resources it has at its disposal -- in the face of an adverse TEPJF ruling will likely be AMLO's greatest challenge.

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